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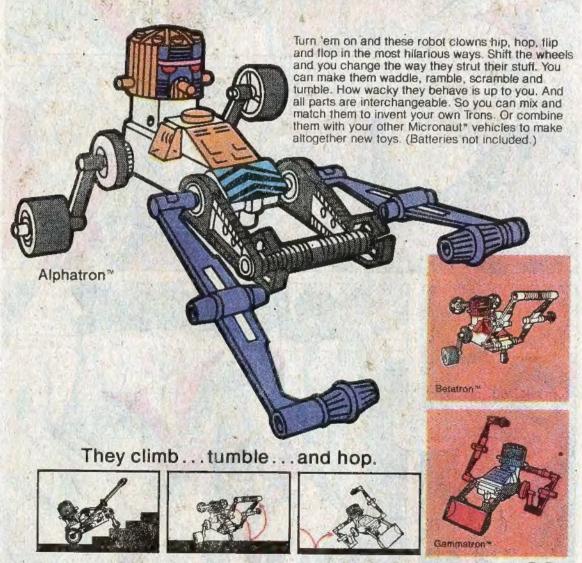






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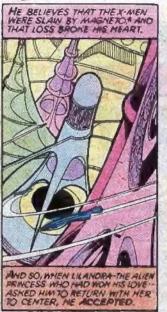












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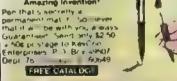
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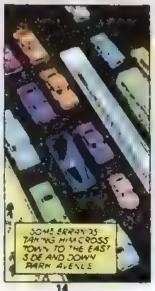








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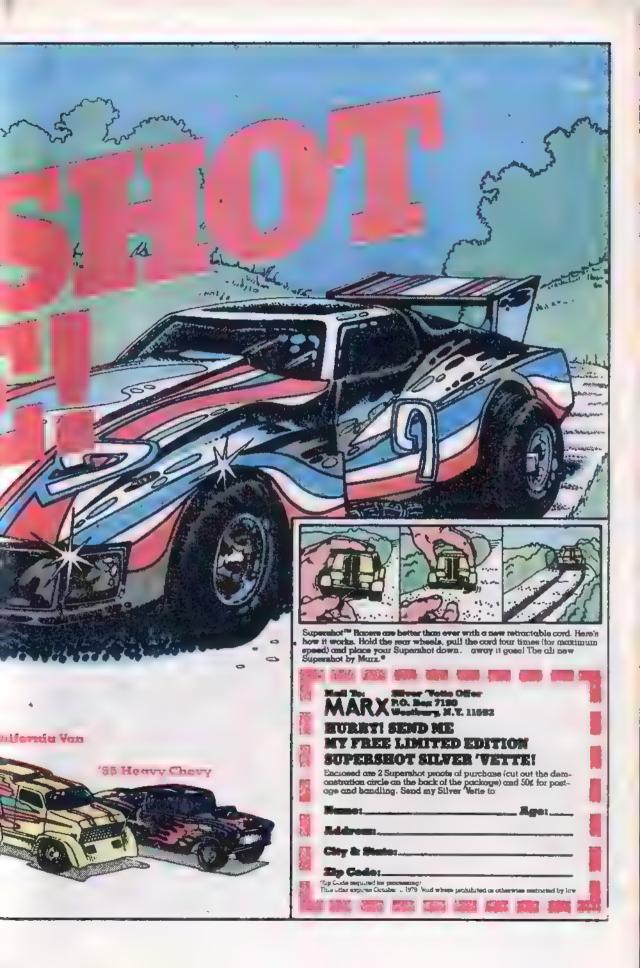












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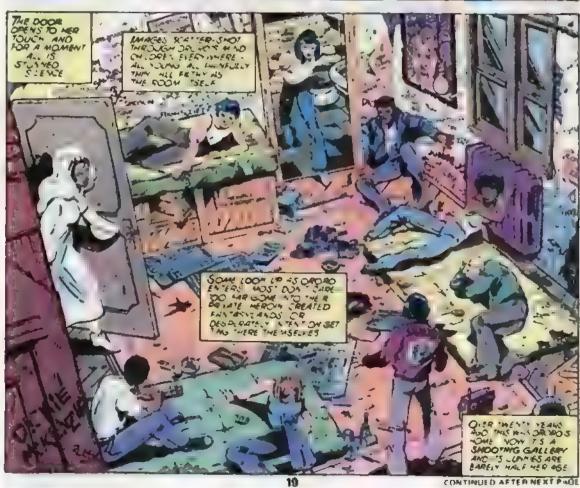
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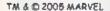
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MUDEN BUNTER

STAN'S BOAPBOX

So there I was a few weeks ago, aubbin' with a gaggle of undergrads during a light-hearted lecture at the College of St. Thomas in Minnesona We were vaking it up with the isual perceptively probing guestions from the audience and the usual ob iquely obfuscatory answers from yours truly Everything was smoothly easing along until I suddenly accounted that the mixed up. Marvel menagerie was plan-long a new and totally unique type of mage zine to unleash coop a deleganters humanity before year's end. Then, from the frenetically frantic excited resetion. on the part of the merry Minnesotures I figured tid better start dropping a few himsy hints to the vast hordes of Marvel dom Amembied, as well. So, here's ait is dere tell you at the moment. We're deringly designing a magazine to be radically different from any we've ever done - aimed at a predominently adult audience but dazzling enough to entrance the sharper vounger reader too It's so new and experimental that we haven't even zeroed in on the event title vet. As for me. I'm personally so. elated and excited about the project that I'll be tak no over the reins as editor must be with the most taleaged staff in publishing to aid advise and keep me out of trouble. We'll shoot more into your way as we keep zooming along, but for the present let's just call it. Project X"- and don't say we didn't warn you! Or, an the imper shable words of Irving Forbush, 'Nous verrons ce que nous Wentons¹¹¹ lan .

Excellion!

ITEM! Last Spring, at a Creation Convention. held here in New York, during a question and answer session with brand new Editor in Chief Jim Shooter someone asked whether Marvel arould be raising the cover price on its comics soon. The question was not entirely unexpected since another comics company had announced its intention to increase prices eneks before, and Jim had checked carefully with Marvel's top brais on the answer he Marvel Cornect until hold the line throughout 1978 and into 1979 if possible As you undoubtedly noticed last month the shound month of 1979, Marvel rayand its cover price for comics from 35d to 40d We didn't like doing it - we wish we could have held out longer but it was just not possible. Like everyone else, we're victims of the cur-

rent economic crunch, but keeping our word and stamming the tale of inflat on a cond as we could was very important to us. We could have upped prices along with the other price. and banked a few more sheckels last year maybe but a promise s a promise Anyway we love weaving our fantastic fantasies as much as you enjoy sharing them. Since it's doing to cost you a bit more to share them now well just buckle down and try harder than ever to make our stories even more exciting and involving. Just thought you'd the teamon.

ITEM! And now when you least expect it it's crossover time again. In issue #234 of CAPTAIN AMERICA for national Decembers washbuckles in for what could be a very hot time Meanwhile, POWER MAN IRON FIST muset every the X-Men for a shouldown with the Living Monolith in a mind boggler entitled (believe it or not) "Pharaohs On Broadway!" As if that weren't enough DOCTOR STRANGE #35 features a quest appearance by the Avenues as the Master Mace tackies the mystery of the Black Knight's statue! They me all on sale now/

ITEM! We're very pleased to report that a certain extremely talented versal e and creetive writer has wandered Marvel's way of late and it looks like he's here to stay Welcome aboard, then, to 'Macabre MICHAEL FLE SHER, renowned for his sinerh work on the Spectre and Jonah Havfor the competition, and also for his recentive published tome. The Greet Superman Book Michael's first assignment at Marvel should



- its the GHOST come as on summer Riffe R. naturally. You can see why we re so bigh on Michael's style in issue #36 of GR as the So rit of Vengeance wreaks havor in Denver, Coloradol II s no este nosal.

ITEM! Not to be outdone, the crack creative orew of the uncapny X MEN has come up with another triumoh in issue #122 on sale (you guested it now! Chris Claremont John Byrne and Terry Austin have combined to create a classic entitled 'Cry For The Chi dren!" which delves deep into the past of the beautiful mutant goddess. Storm, It's an make of insight and intriduce in anotherial And wait I you see the graffiti on the walls in The tenement scene

ITEM! With the Bull pern is busy creating new works of wonder those wonderful folks over at Simon & Schuster are reprinting some of our past pinnacies of artistic achievement! SPIDER MAN Pocket Book #3 for instance testures stories from The Amazine Souter Man smues #14.20 in glorious color for only \$2.251 It's 153 pages of the Dilko excitement and better book stores everywhere already have them!

ITEM! We get many letters from folks who are puzzied by of all things, the commits on Out mann licent n agazines. We'd like to take this opportunity to clear up, for noce and for all, which folks do what and why that no attention! We're only going to do this near! Plotters: Anyhody so credited helped figure out the story and usually typed up a short syncosis of the happenings therein. Percelers Layours, Breakdowns. They're the heroes who draw the story in pencif using the plotter's story synopsis as a guide. Writers. These quys write the dialogue captions, titles, and the credits. Some of them have a perichant for calling themselves authors and other high falutin' names! They re usually the ones who do the plots too so we don't bother crediting the plot unless someone other than the writer did it. Letterers: They do the hand lettering in the balloons from the writer's wright Inkers Emshers Embeurshers Artists so credited so over the penched drawings with black India nk making them darker and smudge proof for better printing, as well as enhancing the style Colorists. These stall warts are given photostatic copies of the inked pages which they color with special dives They're used as color guides by the engraver Editors. We are that is, "they are the most important of ail being in charge of the whole operation. Editors assign at the other jobs and check everyone's work for mistakes in general bulling everything together. And as everyone knows editors are the set of the Earth. Got the facts straight now? Whew!



THE BLOCK. SPIDER-MAM, IN HOTSHOT ON







GROUP

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WAN

LUCKILY I'M A SWINGER, TOO. IF I DON'T GET OLD HOTSHOT TO TURN OFF THE HEAT THIS COOKIE'LL BE BURNED TO A CRISP. BUT I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA.





NOTSHOT ISN'T I'LL JUST HANG AROUND HERE AND ENJOY SO HOT ANY MORE, THANKS SOME MORE HOSTESS TWINKIES CAKES TO HOSTESS! 800 O П YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS TWINKES CAKES



NEXT ISSUE: MURDERWORLD REVISITED, OR-

FUNARANOTHE MARIET

X-NIAIL

676 MARVEL COMICS GROUP 575 Madison Avenue New York, New York 10022 ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

John and Chris:

"Psi-War" was fantastic. Once again, the X Men have surpassed my expectations. In only two years, you two have taken a common comic and transformed it into something extraordinary. The strength and depth of your characterizations are amazing. Stan Lee took one-dimensional characters and made them two-dimensional, you have taken two-dimensional characters and made them into multi-faceted real people. Your handling of Wolverine, Cyclops and now Professor X are the best examples of the superb way you control complex characters.

The current story is the best I've seen in comics since Lee/ Kirby's FANTASTIC FOUR. It's an epic fantasy that surpasses even the Kree/Skrull War. Somehow, your stories are tresher than anything I've read in years. You've rekindled my interest in comics just when I thought I was growing out of them.

John Byrne's artwork gets better each issue. Neal Adams has been dethroned. Adams' artwork may have been more realistic, but it was also scratchier and sketchier. Byrne's artwork emphasizes the fantastic at the expense of strict realism, but it's no loss because each page, each panel, vibrates with life. Adams made comics look life-like, but he never made them live.

The biggest compliment to your skill, however, is the reception the X-MEN receive in the non-comic reading world. Here at Harvard, my comic collecting is regarded as a little bit strange. Lately, I have been able to interest several friends in trying to read comics with an open attitude. I always give them the X-MEN first, and they are always impressed. After reading the X-MEN, most of my friends are converted and keep coming back to read more comics. Unfortunately, after reading the X-MEN, one of my room-mates found that no other title (and I let him read some of the best sequences in comics) lived up to his expectations. The only comic title he'll now read is the X-MEN. That's more praise than a collector like me can ever give you guys.

Theos McKinney
Quincy House B-33 / Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Chris, John & Terry,

Beer with me, guys. This may take a while

It's hard to be a fan when you see mediocre books thriving and excellent books failing. It's hard when you realize that you are buying some books from habit rather than their own value.

This letter is to thank you for the rare exception. This letter is to thank you for X-MEN.

Perhaps it isn't as deep or as cosmically meaningful as DR. STRANGE was. Perhaps it doesn't show us humanity the way MAN THING did.

But X-MEN represents the ideal comic book. Intelligent scripting. Treatment of all characters as total human beings. Rich characterization. Beautiful artwork. Perfect fusion of story and art. How meny books give us such fascinating heroes as Storm, Phoenix, Wolverine, Cyclops, Banshee, Nightcrawler, Colossus and Professor X? How many groups have two women as their most powerful members?

Check back to GIANT SIZE X-MEN #1. This book has fulfilled all the potential of its "first" issue. More, it has gone beyond it, and creates new potential with every issue. This book grows and develops.

In a time when I wonder why I still read comics, X-MEN serves to remind me why. And that's a lot to be grateful for.

Lately, you guys have been bombarded with praise, so may be what I say doesn't mean very much. But I had to write. All three of you—Chris, John and Terry—are turning out the best work in comics, and I want you guys to know that I appreciate the effort.

William Nutt Box 457/Fairfield University Fairfield, CT 06430

We appreciate your letter, Bill, but—by way of maintaining the cosmic balance—we present the following counter-point to you and Theos McKinney...

Dear Editors,

Hey, listen—when you start featuring X-MEN stories again in this magazine, let me know. . .

After a birth into mutancy and surviving 117 issues at your collective hands, I'd expect these things to have advanced to some idea of what they were living for.

In other words, who needs to know what Xavier's motives are? "Psi-War" was an exercise in reproducing vintage DR. STRANGE panels; one could almost smell Colan/Palmer.

Claremont tacks so many make-shift reactions onto his characters in developing a storyline that the eventual resolution pans out with the crew suddenly just trailing along, weathering the conflict rather than engaging in it.

Everyone's lost in the crowd, growing in isolation and achieving little within the circumference of an individual's soul. What downcast triumph: the team-work works against them. Are they not X-MEN?

Bob Allen 1620 Fremont St. Laredo, TX 78040

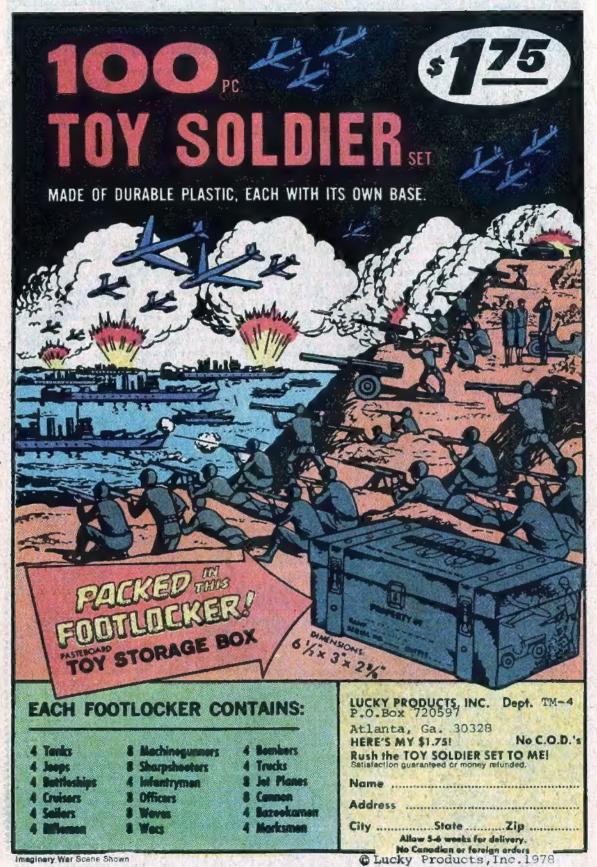
Dear X People.

There are only two words for "Psi-War": indescribably fantastic! I have always wanted to know about Professor X before the X-Men. The only thing wrong with it is on Page 30, frame #1, where he tells Princess Lilandra he lost the use of his legs in battle with Lucifer, while in X-MEN #1, Page 10, frame #3, he tells Jean Grey that he must remain in his chair due to a childhood accident. Please explain? If you can't, I wouldn't mind finding out what a no-prize is.

Scot Lerner 2529 Whisper Way Taliahassee, FL 32308

Blame it on Stan "the Man" Lee, Scot; he wrote both stories—X-MEN #1, with the "childhood" explanation, and #7, wherein he introduced the Lucifer scenario. The way we see it, his legs were crushed during a battle with Lucifer, but he kept that knowledge from the X-Man—not wishing to unduly alarm them—until they were trained and mature and experienced enough to cope with it, and, of course, with Lucifer himself. Nice try, Scot, but no No-Prize.

NEXT ISSUE: "If you read the Issue before the lettercol, you've a pretty good idea of what's coming. If you haven't, shame on you—and start reading! The gentleman's name is Arcade, the gentleman's game is murder. His target: the X-Men! Be here in 30, friends and neighbors, as you, our manic mutants, and a certain wall-crawling guest-star discover that: "FUNFAIR IS ANOTHER NAME FOR MURDER!"



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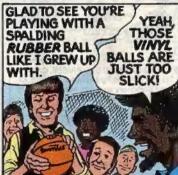
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